FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

30 DECEMBER 1985

Reaction to Terrorist Attacks at Rome, Vienna Airports

Following Libya's expressed approval for the 27 December terrorist attacks at Rome and Vienna airports, Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres accused Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi of "drumming up hatred and extremism" and held him responsible for the "indiscriminate killing of men, women, and children," *THE JERUSALEM POST reported. The Libyan agency JANA* had described the attacks by "sons of the martyrs of Palestine" as "heroic operations" which are "a direct result of the Sabra and Shatila massacres." JANA castigated Tunisia, Egypt, and Jordan for their denunciations of the operations. The PLO condemned the terrorist attacks in statements broadcast by Baghdad Voice of PLO radio, denying that the PLO was responsible and reaffirming its commitment to the Cairo Declaration. A commentary by the radio maintained that the attacks were "aimed at the PLO more than any other target" because Italy and Austria understand Palestinian rights more than other West European states. Riyadh radio claimed that Israeli intelligence was behind the terrorist attacks, contending that Mosad hired mercenaries to attack the airports in order to give Israel an excuse to strike at Palestinian bases in Khartoum or elsewhere.

The sole surviving gunman in the Rome attack said he belongs to the group led by Sabri al-Banna, alias Abu Nidal, AFP disclosed, and he warned that other attacks will follow. Messages found in the pockets of the dead terrorists indicated that the Rome attack was in revenge for the Israeli raid on the PLO headquarters in Tunis, according to the agency, which pointed out that several Arab newspapers have alleged that Israeli jets refueled in Sicily on their way to Tunisia. From Beirut, AFP reported that the hitherto unknown "Arab Fedayeen Cells" claimed responsibility for the attacks, which left 18 dead and over 100 wounded.

Lebanon: Tripartite Agreement

The text of the "National Agreement To Solve the Lebanese Crisis," signed by the leaders of the Lebanese Forces, Amal Movement, and Progressive Socialist Party in Damascus 28 December, was broadcast by Damascus radio the following day. The agreement calls for an end to the civil war and the drafting of a new constitution within a year after the formation of a new government which will organize elections to a new Chamber of Deputies on the basis of a new electoral law and will draft a plan to cancel sectarianism in the legislature, executive, and administration. Meanwhile, the present Chamber will be expanded to 198 deputies through the appointment of new members in accordance with the principles of equal sharing between Muslims and Christians. The president will retain many powers but will only attend cabinet meetings in "limited cases" and will have no voting power at meetings of the Supreme Defense Council.

As for the security problem and the mechanism for ending the civil war, the tripartite agreement stipulates that Syrian forces will be stationed at agreed points to support the Internal Security Forces, which will be reinforced in order to extend state authority and collect weapons from the militias. The Lebanese Army will be withdrawn to its bases for "rehabilitation" with Syrian assistance and Syrian military units will remain at specific points in Lebanon until the Lebanese Army is rebuilt and ready for "defensive tasks against the enemy." The document stresses the need for Lebanese-Syrian security integration and says Lebanon must not allow itself to be a gateway through which Israel can attack Syria. The Lebanese Army must be kept away from internal political conflicts and its main task is defined as resisting Israeli occupation.

Lebanese Forces Executive Committee Chairman Elie Hubayqah called for the rapid implementation of the agreement in remarks reported by Voice of Lebanon radio 30 December, stating that a new government should be formed within 1 week. Lebanese Forces Chief of Staff Samir Ja'ja' warned, however, that any agreement should be based on "political reality," according to the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon. Beirut radio had earlier reported that Ja'ja' opposed the agreement, along with Phalangist and National Liberal Party leaders.

Syrian-Jordanian Summit

Jordan's King Husayn left Amman for Damascus 30 December, Amman radio announced. Beirut radio reported that the visit, which was originally scheduled for 28 December, was postponed "to pave the way" for Syria's participation in the signing of the Lebanese tripartite agreement.

Egypt

The soldier who killed seven Israelis at Ra's al-Burqa' in October was sentenced to life imprisonment with hard labor, Cairo radio reported. Israel's ambassador to Egypt expressed "full confidence in the Egyptian judicial system" following the sentencing, Jerusalem radio noted, adding that Israel is now waiting for the "full official report" on the affair. A PFLP statement, however, condemned the sentence calling it the result of Israeli and U.S. pressure on Egypt.

Libya

Libyan "observers" will go to the Mali-Burkina Faso border as part of a cease-fire agreement reached between the two countries 29 December, JANA reported. A Tripoli radio report on the agreement revealed that Libya will participate in a "military surveillance committee" that will also include representatives from Nigeria, Mali, Burkina Faso, and the OAU. However, Mali's foreign minister, in an interview broadcast by Paris radio, insisted that Mali has signed "neither a joint communique nor a declaration with anyone."

Iran-Iraq War

Commenting on the recent seizure of a Danish ship and the confiscation of 60 tons of explosives it was delivering to Iraq, the Iranian Navy commander announced that Iran will "increase" its interception of ships in the Oman Sea, IRNA reported. In remarks to *ETTELA'AT*, the commander noted that ships carrying "suspicious cargo for Iraq" have begun using "different routes" to avoid interception. As for the air war, a General Command communique carried by Baghdad radio announced that Iraqi planes successfully raided Khark Island and accurately hit a large maritime target near the Iranian coast 27 December. Iraqi planes again raided Khark Island 28 and 29 December and flew 79 missions against ground targets 28 December, according to communiques broadcast by Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio.

Iran

Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that Iran sets no conditions for cooperation with the GCC, Tehran radio reported. During talks with visiting UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Rashid al-Nu'aymi, the Majlis speaker related that neutrality on the part of the Gulf states toward the Iran-Iraq conflict would be "acceptable."

In another development, one of the Yemeni nationals who hijacked a Saudi plane to Tehran last year was sentenced to 12 years in prison while the second hijacker was acquitted, IRNA announced.

Pakistan

Martial law ended 30 December, President Ziaul Haq announced in a speech broadcast by Karachi radio. Speaking to a joint session of Parliament, the president proclaimed the "dawn of a complete democratic era," revealing that the constitution is "fully restored."

Afghanistan

Responding to U.S. President Ronald Reagan's 28 December "hostile statement" supporting Afghan "counterrevolutionary bands," a Kabul radio commentary asserted that Reagan, while making it appear as if the United States wants a solution to the Afghan situation, is actually extending "shameful interference" in Afghan internal affairs. The radio added that Washington is responsible for all the bloodshed and destruction in the DRA. Meanwhile, a Foreign Ministry official cited by Kabul radio affirmed that the DRA seeks direct talks with Pakistan not out of a need for recognition by the Pakistani regime, but because of its "earnest political will" for such talks.

PLO Affairs

Political Department chief Faruq Qaddumi will lead a PLO delegation to official talks in Moscow 6 January, Baghdad Voice of PLO radio announced, adding that Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has been invited by the CPSU to participate in its congress, which begins 25 February.

Sudan

Elections are officially scheduled for 1-12 April, a government statement cited by KUNA announced. A joint meeting of the Transitional Military Council and the Cabinet set 18 January-23 February as the voter registration period.

Algeria

Opposition leaders Ahmed Ben Bella and Hocine Ait Ahmed called for an end to the "undeclared war between Morocco and Algeria" in a joint statement to a Moroccan newspaper cited by Rabat radio. The opposition leaders declared that it is not in Algeria's interest "to dismember Morocco."

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

CONTENTS

South Asia

Vol VIII No 250 *30 December 1985*

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

AFGHANISTAN

BAKHTAR Commentary on Reagan's 'Hostile' Statement ..... C 1
Foreign Ministry Issues Reply to Pakistan ..... C 1

INDIA

Gandhi Opens Congress Centenary Celebrations ..... E 1
Addresses Session ..... E 1
Discusses Defense, Economy ..... E 1
4 Sikhs Dead in Punjab Rioting, Curfew Lifted ..... E 2

PAKISTAN

President Announces Lifting of Martial Law ..... F 1
Prime Minister's Address ..... F 1

OTHER COUNTRIES

BANGLADESH

Strikes Viewed As Challenge to Ershad *[AFP]* ..... G 1

SRI LANKA

Tamil Militants Fire on Troops; 1 Killed *[AFP]* ..... G 1

IRAN

Danish Liner Seized by Navy in Oman Sea ..... I 1
Explosives Unloaded ..... I 1
Navy To Intercept Ships Outside Strait of Hormuz ..... I 1
Further Details ..... I 1
Hashemi-Rafsanjani on War, Saddam's Moscow Visit ..... I 1
Reportage on Visit of UAE Foreign Minister ..... I 2
Arrives 28 Dec ..... I 2
Holds Talks With Velayati ..... I 2
Meets With Musavi ..... I 3
Meets With Arab Envoys ..... I 3
Confers With Majlis Speaker ..... I 3
Talks Continue ..... I 4
Tehran Reports Kurdish Attack on Iraqi Forces ..... I 4
Reportage on Combat Activities in War With Iraq ..... I 4
Communique No 2,332 ..... I 4
Communique No 2,333 ..... I 4
Communique No 2,334 ..... I 4
Air Force Hits Sulaymaniyah Area ..... I 5
Further Details ..... I 5

BAKHTAR Commentary on Reagan's 'Hostile' Statement
LD292044 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto and Dari 0735 GMT 29 Dec 85

[Commentary by unidentified BAKHTAR political commentator]

[Text] U.S. President Ronald Reagan once again at the White House yesterday issued a hostile statement against the DRA in support of the Afghan counterrevolutionary bands, whose hands are stained with the blood of thousands of innocent Afghan children and who have committed grievous savage crimes in our country.

The U.S. President's statement demonstrates that the Washington administration not only does not intend under any circumstances to reduce the undeclared war against Afghanistan but is even trying to intensify it in any way possible.

If we look closely at the development of the situation in the region, it clearly emerges that the U.S. leaders' actions are contrary to their hypocritical statements. Recently, Ronald Reagan made a fuss about the guarantees to the political solution of the so-called Afghan question. He made it appear as if the United States is interested in the solution of regional conflicts, including the Afghan conflict. However, Ronald Reagan's recent statement showed that in order to justify his interventionist policy he still uses deception and trickery and extends the scope of shameful interference in our internal affairs.

The pledge of further support by the Reagan administration to the Afghan counterrevolutionaries, as reflected in the White House statement, shows the world community that, contrary to the statements of that country's leaders who -- in order to deceive international public opinion, have several times spoken of supporting a solution for the Afghanistan situation -- in practice continue to intensify th situation.

In his Kremlin address to the leaders of the diplomatic corps, M. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, expressed the hope that great progress will be achieved during 1986 in the Middle East, Central America, the situation surrounding Afghanistan, South Africa and the political situation in the Gulf. Gorbachev stressed that in order to achieve a just solution of the problems the Soviet Union is ready to cooperate with all those countries that want to play a sincere part.

In return, Ronald Reagan not only does not show good intentions or speak truthfully about the just solution of problems of countries, including the solution of the situation surrounding Afghanistan -- which contradicts his recent statements to the effect that he supports a peaceful political solution for the Afghan situation -- but he promises further support for the professional murderers of the Afghan counterrevolution and terrorist bands and promises them further military and financial assistance.

The counterrevolutionaries have to date destroyed or burned thousands of schools, hospitals, health clinics, agricultural cooperatives, mosques, bridges and public establishments. They have murdered thousands of innocent people, including women and children. They continue to pursue these savage actions. However, Mr Reagan speaks of support and solidarity with these lackey and bloodsucking bands.

We declare to the people of the world that the responsibility for all this bloodshed and destruction in our country rests with the Washington administration and that it should answer to the people of the world for these savage crimes in the DRA. The revolution of Afghanistan is continuing, and the people of Afghanistan are approaching final victory.

Foreign Ministry Issues Reply to Pakistan
LD282240 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 28 Dec 85

[Text] In reply to the question of a BIA correspondent about the recent statement of the Pakistan foreign affairs minister in the so-called parliament of that country about the DRA and the last round of Geneva talks between the delegations of the two countries, a spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said the following:

The DRA Government, which came into being as a result of the national and democratic April Revolution, is a government with a new revolutionary line, based on the unity of the widest sector of broad masses and classes of the Afghan society, including peasants, workers, progressive intelligentsia, patriotic clergy, [word indistinct], national traders, and national entrepreneurs.

This government, which for the first time in the history of the country, has secured the equality and true fraternity of all nationalities, tribes, and clans of the country in the framework of infallible unity with each other in our united country, revolutionary Afghanistan, is the genuine manifestation of national sovereignty in the DRA.

The real sources of righteousness and [word indistinct] of such a government is the million citizens of the country not recognition by this or that foreign regime. In particular, the DRA Government does not feel any need for recognition by a military dictatorship which has usurped political power in Pakistan by force of bayonet and rejected by the people of Pakistan themselves.

A regime which toppled the only elected government in the history of the country as a result of a military conspiracy, distorted the Constitution of the country, outlawed political parties and has trampled on all rights and freedoms of the masses of the people, nationalities, and tribes of the country, rationally cannot be considered as the source of recognition for others.

If the DRA emphasizes direct talks, it is not because the DRA feels the need for the legitimacy and recognition by the military regime of Pakistan, but because of its earnest political will in talks.

There are examples of countries that, without recognizing each other, have sat around one table for direct talks to solve their differences. For example, we can mention the talks between the SRV and the United States in Paris; and the talks between the United States and China in Warsaw. Irrespective of this the Foreign Minister of Pakistan cannot deny the fact that the duty

of the UN secretary general and his representative was basically to bring both parties to the table for talks.

In addition to this, in view of the existence of political representatives, a general consulate, and consulate offices in each other countries, as well as trade relations the issue of recognition is nothing but a pretext to (?avoid) constructive talks and to deceive the public opinion. On the other hand, the fraternal people of Pakistan many times and by various means have expressed their support for the April Revolution of Afghanistan.

The political parties in this country, leaders and socio-political figures of Pakistan society, have time and again requested direct talks with the DRA to discuss a peaceful solution for the situation around Afghanistan.

The obstinacy of the military dictatorship of Islamabad vis-a-vis this demand of the overwhelming majority of the people of Pakistan, not only exposes the anti-national nature of this government, but also shows (?how this country) pursues the strategy of U.S. imperialism and Chinese hegemonism in the region.

The claim of the Pakistan foreign minister that the dictatorship of generals in Pakistan is not under U.S. influence, is merely an attempt to deceive public opinion in Pakistan. The high-ranking authorities of Pakistan have often formally admitted that the pressure of imperialism, hegemonism, and reaction of the region, in particular the Reagan administration, has bound their hands and feet.

After more then 7 years of blatant intervention in the internal affairs of the DRA, it is now clear that Pakistan forms the major springboard of imperialist and hegemonist aggression against revolutionary Afghanistan. It is only because of the existence of this springboard that the murderering bandits -- with money and weapons supplied by U.S. imperialism, Chinese hegemonism, and other reactionary circles in the region -- are being trained, equipped, and armed in over 120 camps in Pakistan and are being sent onto DRA soil to murder and plunder.

The DRA Government reiterates once more that it wants to reach a political solution for the events around Afghanistan and will continue its endeavors and earnest and constructive initiatives in this respect. In our view reaching such a solution is the demand of the people of both countries, and the people of the region. It would also be in the interests of the people of Afghanistan, in the interests of the Pakistani people and of all of the people of the region. It would serve the cause of peace and stability in the region and in the world. Holding direct talks in order to reach this objective, is not only more effective, but takes less time and prevents misunderstandings. They would also show the good faith of the opposite party and its political will to normalize relations.

Gandhi Opens Congress Centenary Celebrations

BK271005 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 27 Dec 85

[Excerpts] The centenary celebrations of the Indian National Congress began in Bombay today with the unfurling of the flag by the party president, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, at the historic August Kranti Maidan [ground].

Addressing the Sevadal workers [volunteers], Mr Gandhi recalled that the first meeting of the Congress was held 100 years ago near this Maidan. Mahatma Gandhi had given the call for the Quit India Movement from this very Maidan known as Gwalior Tank Ground. The golden jubilee session of the party was also held at this ground. Mr Gandhi said the Congress, which enters into the 2d century of its existence today, not only led the country to freedom but also carved out an important place for the country in the comity of nations.

The Congress Working Committee which met in Bombay today made several suggestions in the draft resolution which has been described as the Centenary Resolve. The suggestions have been forwarded to the drafting committee and the resolution is being finalized. The party general secretary, Mr Jitendra Prasad, said that the suggestions include addition of names and facts regarding the Congress leaders and defining the basic concepts of the party.

Replying to questions, Mr Prasad said that the resolution lays stress on solving the socioeconomic problems as well as strengthening national integration.It also calls for greater attention to the development of youth and women.

Addressing the working committee, the party president, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, said that the country has made tremendous progress under the Congress leadership. However, much remains to be accomplished. Today the country has a place of its own in the world.

The working committee also finalized the election schedule of the party. Election of the party president is to be held on 25 July next year. The enlarged Working Committee meeting was attended by 130 members. The draft resolution was presented at the meeting by Mr Narasimha Rao.

Those who spoke at the meeting included Professor N.G. Ranga, Mr Vishwanath Pyzozlinih, Mr Buta Singh, Mrs Mohsina Kidwai, Mufti Mohammad Sayeed and Mr Ashok Sen.

The Frontier Gandhi, Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan, arrived in Bombay this morning from Delhi to attend the Congress centenary celebrations. A 7-member Soviet delegation has also reached Bombay to take part in the celebrations. It is led by the chief editor of the Soviet daily PRAVDA, Mr V.G. Afanasyev, and includes the Soviet ambassador to India, Mr V.N. Rykov. The Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party has greeted the party on the occasion of its centenary. In a message it expressed the hope that cooperation between peoples of the two countries will grow stronger for the cause of world peace and security.

Addresses Session

BK281408 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 28 Dec 85

[Excerpts] Mr Rajiv Gandhi inaugurated the centenary plenary session of the Indian National Congress in Bombay today with a call to his partymen to revive the tradition of fighting for the poor and oppressed. He asked them to generate a mass movement based on the Congress ideology of nationalism, secularism, democracy, and socialism. He said this is the only relevant ideology for the country. A huge gathering filled the stands and the ground of the Brabourne Stadium, named Indira Nagar for the occasion. Even some hours after the opening of the session, large numbers of people crowded the gates to the stadium trying to secure an entry. Police had a tough time controlling them. Party members, foreign delegates, and others cheered Mr Gandhi frequently during his hour-long speech, which made a frank appraisal of the state of affairs in India today in various walkks of life.

Mr Gandhi traced the history of the freedom struggle and the party during the past 100 years and the historic role played by Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharllal Nehru and Indira Gandhi. He said a critical turning point has now been reached when there is need for introspection. He regretted that while proclaiming the unity of India we are still imprisoned by the narrow domestic walls of religion, language, caste, and region. Our legislators do not set standards for others to follow. There are some industrial establishments which shelter lawbreakers and tax-evaders. Mr Gandhi said trade unions today protect the few who have, oblivious of millions who have not. We have government servants who do not serve but oppress the poor and helpless. We have police who do not uphold the law but shield the guilty, and tax collectors who do not collect taxes but connive with those who cheat the state.

Referring to his own party, he said it is losing touch with the toiling millions. In its preoccupation with governance it is drifting away from the people. Mr Gandhi said corruption is not only tolerated but even regarded as the hallmark of leadership. Revitalization of the organization has become a historical necessity. Calling for a Build India Movement, Mr Gandhi said the country needs a politics of service to the poor. Pleading for a change in our life styles, the Congress president said members of the party at all levels must set the examples through simplicity, efficiency, and commitment to national goals. Concluding his address, Mr Gandhi said a century of achievements has ended, a century of endeavor beckons us.

Discusses Defense, Economy

BK291635 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 Dec 85

[Excerpts] The prime minister has called upon the people to launch a movement to make India strong and united so that it can compete with the developed countries. Addressing a huge public meeting in Bombay this evening, Mr Rajiv Gandhi urged the people to sink their differences and rededicate themselves in the service of the nation.

Mr Gandhi called upon the scientists and technologists to come out with innovations to improve production and productivity in the factories and fields.

The prime minister also underlined the need to make the defense forces stronger so that they can defend our borders more effectively. He said the country can express its opinion freely and fearlessly only when it is strong. He said India has faced external pressures from time to time, and we have to ensure that it is strong enough to withstand them. The prime minister described nonalignment as the biggest peace movement in the world, which has steared clear of power blocs. He said that India stands for world peace as development is not possible without it.

The prime minister emphasized the need to accelerate the process of economic development. He said this is necessary as poverty has to be removed.

4 Sikhs Dead in Punjab Rioting, Curfew Lifted

BK280723 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 29 Dec 85

[Text] In Punjab, curfew in Gurdaspur town was completely lifted yesterday. According to an official spokesman in Chandigarh, peace and normalcy have returned to the town following assurances given by the district administration to look into the grievances of the citizens. The curfew in the town had been imposed in the wake of violent clashes last Tuesday [24 December]. Meanwhile, the death toll in last Friday's clash between two rival groups of armed nihangs [Sikh temple guards] at Fatehgarh Sahib has risen to four with the death of one person in hospital.

President Announces Lifting of Martial Law

BK301041 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0515 GMT 30 Dec 85

[Pakistan President Mohammad Ziaul Haq's address to joint sitting of Parliament in Islamabad on 30 December — live]

[Excerpts] Mr Speaker, peace be upon you. According to the laws of nature the sun rises everyday and sets after a specific period. However, there are times when the sun brings along the message of days which leave permanent imprints on the history of nations. Such a day dawned on the 5th of July 1977, when the Pakistani armed forces had to assume the country's administration for the sake of its safety, security, and law and order. And a similar memorable day occurs today, when martial law is being lifted. [applause]

Mr Speaker, with you as the intermediary, I want to draw the House's attention to the fact that for the first time in this country or anywhere on the Asian continent, democracy is being born out of the womb of martial law. [applause] In history, martial law and democracy are considered contradictory to each other, and it is said that fire and water can never become one and the same. But we have transformed fire and water into steam under a premeditated scheme which has brought the country to a state of democracy.

The country's new direction, which has been determined according to its basic ideology, will, God willing, continue, and the policies being implemented both in the internal and external relations in the interests of the country will continue. Of course, the authority to revise, correct, and modify these policies will be vested in this competent House, the cabinet to be formed, and in its head — the prime minister. But no revolutionary changes in these policies should be expected. The president of the country himself is the symbol, the guarantee of this continuity and consistency who was accorded the vote of confidence of the people during the 1984 referendum. I would like to assure the people who voted for me that I will try to earn their confidence and, God willing, to fulfill under any circumstances the responsibilities they have given me through direct franchise. [applause]

Mr Speaker, with the lifting of martial law today, several orders are being promulgated. Under one of the orders, the present constitution with all its clauses is being fully restored. [applause] Under the second order, the chief martial law administrator's prerogative enabling him to set up military courts has been suspended. Therefore, military courts have been abolished and all martial law offices have been closed with immediate effect. And all martial law orders and regulations have been abrogated except those few which have already been given constitutional protection. [applause] Under the third order, the cases which are still pending in military courts have been transferred to relevant civil courts. Under another order, the Federal Inspection Commission has been changed into the Prime Minister's Inspection Commission, and now this organization will be working under the supervision of the prime minister. Under the fourth and most important order, the presidential declaration of 5 July 1977, that is, the President's Proclamation of 5 July 1977, has been abolished with immediate effect. [applause]

With the lifting of martial law, three of the four provincial governors are resigning from their positions with dignity and honor today. [applause] Our fourth colleague will continue to fulfill the responsibilities of the governor after retiring from the Armed Forces. May God make him successful. I extend my sincere thanks to all four governors and my old colleagues for their long-time association with me and for guiding me in various important and delicate situations. They helped me in taking the country and the nation to the present democratic goal.

Regarding the last point which I mentioned before is that while running the affairs of the country you should be aware of the external situation as well and protect the country from every internal and external threat so that no one can say that we as a nation are not worthy of democracy, or that we can create crises but are incapable of solving them. I have firm faith in the capability of 90 million people. I am proud of their spirit of independence. I have complete confidence in their sense of democracy. I am entrusting the country's steering wheel to them and announcing the lifting of martial law before these distinguished guests immediately after the end of my speech today, the 30th December 1985. Thank God. [applause]

I seek your permission to conclude my speech and would like to call you to salute the founders of Pakistan, the martyrs of the independence movement, the people imbued with the spirit of independence and the custodians of democracy. Long live Pakistan and may the era of democracy endure. May peace and the blessings of God be upon you. [applause]

Prime Minister's Address

BK300850 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0637 GMT 30 Dec 85

[Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo's address to joint sitting of Parliament in Islamabad — live]

[Text] Mr Speaker. First of all, on this historic and memorable occasion, I should like, through this house, to congratulate all Pakistani people [applause] for today martial law has been lifted from the country [applause] and the nation's convoy has once again been put on the path of completedemocracy. [applause] With extreme sincerity and modesty we thank God Almighty who, through his mercy, has once again provided us with an opportunity to learn from past mistakes and establish an Islamic society and democratic system, and play a historic role in fulfilling the aspirations of the people.

Today is a memorable day in our history. You heard the declaration of Pakistan President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq. Today, when we entered this house, the country was being run under the martial law. When we leave the house, the full-fledged sun of democracy with all its heat and light will have risen. This is not an ordinary event. This is a victory for democracy and an honor for the people. The declaration of President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq is an extremely statesmanlike step, and I pay tribute to the president for his decision. [applause]

When I announced the final date for the withdrawal of martial law, he [the president] assured me that my announcement would

be honored and my promise to the nation would be fulfilled. Only through the complete cooperation of the president and the distinguished members of the Senate and the National Assembly have I been able to successfully fulfill my promise. [applause] In this connection, the distinguished members of Parliament demonstrated wisdom, perception and political prudence over every delicate issue, and proved their capabilities. I also congratulate them for unanimously welcoming my 14 August Lahore declaration that martial law would be lifted by the end of this year. They not only fully supported that declaration, but also gave me a fresh vote of confidence. The members of both houses of Parliament also fully cooperated with me in fulfilling all the necessary constitutional and legal steps to lift martial law by 31 December 1985 as provided for in that declaration. The fact is that without the full cooperation of the National Assembly and the Senate it would not have been possible for us to reach this historic milestone.

You may recall that in my first address after assuming the office of prime minister I said that an elected government and martial law cannot go together for a long time. On this memorable day today I am pleased and honored to announce that from today the Constitution has been completely restored in the country. As you are aware, there was the possibility that parts of the Constitution which were kept in abeyance would have been restored at a later date. Many quarters even expressed their apprehension that after so many years of martial law, the government should have powers to take extraordinary steps if it becomes necessary. My colleagues and I, however, after much thought and consideration, decided that the Constitution should be restored in full. I have every confidence in the maturity and farsightedness of the people and that they themselves will protect the Constitution and will not create conditions under which the government has to impose restrictions on political or other freedoms. God willing, from today we will live our lives under the protection of a democratic constitution.

Today, after 20 years, the basic rights of citizens are being restored. [applause] A state of emergency was imposed in our country after the 1965 war and martial law was imposed in 1969. That martial law was lifted, but the state of emergency continued. Since then 20 years have passed. An elected government also came, but the state of emergency was not lifted from the country. Today the state of emergency is not being imposed in the country. [applause] The supremacy of the judiciary is being established. The people and their elected representatives can claim success for the process of fully restoring the Constitution being completed peacefully in the country. The restoration of the Constitution will consolidate the democratic values in the country and the democratic institutions, God willing, will be strengthened. The revival of democracy is not our destination but the start of a journey to serve the nation and reconstruct it. It is now the responsibility of all of us to further strengthen the democratic political system in accordance with Islamic tenets and democratic principles. This is the most important need of the time. We are starting this new journey with strong determination and great care. I am confident that the sapling of democracy which we are planting today will, God willing, grow to be a strong and stable tree that will always be healthy.

I want democracy to be given a chance to promote itself in a democratic way in the country. It should have enough strength of its own so that it does not need anybody's support. [applause] Its strength will be its own people, the workers, farmers, youths, women, lawyers, scholars, journalists, and intellectuals who are all the protectors of democracy. If all of them discharge their roles with national spirit, then neither internal sedition can dislodge it, nor foreign designs can succeed against it. My only appeal is that prejudicial steps [against democracy] should not succeed in any circumstances. The process of democracy, which has been revived after 8 and 1/2 years, should be fully protected and if any person seeks to vitiate the atmosphere of peace and stability, then such subversive activities should be foiled with full courage and strength. [applause]

Other than peace and stability, ideological unity is extremly important for the country's solidarity and promotion of democracy. With the grace of God Almighty, nobody is opposed to the ideological foundation of the country. Islam is the foundation of Pakistan and only Islam is our real prupose in life. Islam is a religion of security, peace and stability. It will be our efforts that in the next 4 years all sectors of national life should be reconstructed according to Islamic teachings. [applause] We want to lay the foundation of an economic system which conforms with our ideology and such a system can succeed only through the joint efforts of the people. It is essential to maintain peace and harmony in the country to implement such programs.

I also expect from the political leaders that, recognizing the delicacy of the situation, they will cooperate with the elected government of the people in the interests of consolidating democracy and national progress and construction so that the government can assure social justice and economic progress in a peaceful atmosphere.

I and my colleagues consider power as a sacred trust. We are accountable to God Almighty. We will serve the people with responsibility and sincerity and will present ourselves to the people during the next election. We guarantee that at the scheduled time, free and fair elections will held in the country, and the people's verdict will be totally respected so that the country will not have to face the sort of situation which in the past was created by the discarding of democratic principles. Let us take a pledge today, as an independent and honorable nation, that in this sacred land democracy will be strengthened to such an extent that any future change will only come through free and fair elections. [applause] Let God Almighty provide us the strength to fulfill this pledge.

With the lifting of martial law, Parliament has become sovereign [applause] and all powers have been transferred to the elected government. I am confident that the elected representatives and the people will cooperate with the government in the next 4 years as they did with me in lifting martial law. We achieved Pakistan through democratic struggle and we will strengthen this democracy with full sincerity and, God willing, Pakistan will be an exemplary model of Islamic democracy, strength and equality. Let us pray to God Almighty to guide us in the fulfillment of our intentions. Amen! Long live Pakistan.

BANGLADESH

Strikes Viewed As Challenge to Ershad

HK300924 Hong Kong AFP in English 0820 GMT 30 Dec 85

[Text] Dhaka, Dec 30 (AFP) — A strike by the country's professionals, coupled with industrial unrest pose a new challenge to President Hussain Mohammad Ershad as he prepares to allow open political activities, reports said here today.

The country's military ruler has said he will allow open political and trade union activities from Wednesday after 10 months of political freeze, under a renewed plan towards holding national polls and putting the country back on the path to democracy.

But strikes by doctors, technocrats and jute mill workers in the past 10 days have come as a new challenge to the military regime analysts said, even as Lieutenant General Ershad was preparing to restore the political process after successfully hosting the first summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) early this month.

Nearly 40,000 doctors, engineers and agricultural technocrats defied a curb on collective bargaining and embarked on an indefinite strike December 22 to press for higher salaries and professional benefits.

Meanwhile, nearly a quarter of a million workers from the country's 69 jute mills Saturday began a 72-hour work stoppage for higher wages and benefits, threatening to continue the strike if their demands were not immediately met.

The doctors' strike has virtually paralysed the country's clinics and hospitals, and hospital sources said yesterday that at least 25 patients in a northern Bangladesh hospital had died as a result of the strike.

The authorities have expressed fears that if the engineers' strike continues, power, gas and water supplies, the railway signalling system and ferry services could be disrupted.

If the strike continues in the jute sector, which accounts for nearly 60 percent of the country's export earnings, it may deal a severe blow to Bangladesh' limping economy, already suffering a chronic balance of payments problem, analysts said. So far, efforts to persuade the striking groups to return to work have proved futile and informed soruces said today that talks between the authorities and the professionals had failed to yield any result "which means the strike would continue."

According to unofficial estimates, the demands for higher salaries and benefits by the professionals and jute workers would cost the government an additional 10 million dollars per year.

Political analysts here believe that the opposition intends to start putting increasing pressure on the government as soon as the ban on its activities is lifted Wednesday.

The country's mainstream opposition have decided to mark new year's day Wednesday with a series of protest rallies and demonstrations. Both the fifteen and seven-party opposition alliances as well as the right-wing fundamentalist Jamiat-e Islami Party will hold separate rallies and protest meetings throughout the country demanding an end to martial law and early national polls.

Further strikes are also planned, with the Sramik Karmachari Oiykko Parishad (SKOP) — a federation of 16 trade unions and employees' organisations allied to the opposition — calling for a total shutdown of all mills, factories and public sector corporations on January 20. The SKOP campaign for higher wages and benefits is also to include a show of solidarity and "March on Dhaka" January 24.

President Ershad has repeatedly said he would go ahead with his civilianisation plans and hold national polls sometime in March or April. He has announced and cancelled national polls at least three times since coming to power in a bloodless coup in 1982, in the face of opposition boycott threats.

SRI LANKA

Tamil Militants Fire on Troops; 1 Killed

HK290730 Hong Kong AFP in English 0725 GMT 29 Dec 85

[Text] Colombo, Dec 29 (AFP) — One soldier was killed and four others wounded when Tamil militants fired on troops conducting a search operation in the northwestern district of Mannar, high-ranking security sources said today.

Troops returning to camp after the incident yesterday escaped further attacks when a separatist landmine just missed their vehicle, the sources said. The soldiers, acting on a tip-off, had been looking for a militant hideout when militants in hiding opened fire on them at Adampan village in Mannar District, the sources said. One soldier died on the spot and four others were wounded, while there was no immediate information on any separatist casualties.

Meanwhile at Akkaraipattu in Eastern Province, an estimated 3,000 persons, mainly Tamils, staged a demonstration yesterday demanding that Tamil militants end their violence and stop victimising innocent civilians, residents said. Several Moslem shopowners reportedly put up shutters in support of the protest.

Tamil militants have been waging a sometimes violent campaign for a Tamil state in the north and east of this Indian Ocean island republic.

Danish Liner Seized by Navy in Oman Sea

LD281626 Tehran IRNA in English 1622 GMT 28 Dec 85

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 28, IRNA — The Danish ship *Hornland* carrying explosives for the Iraqi regime was seized by Iran's Navy in the Oman Sea Saturday, an informed source of the Navy told IRNA here Saturday. According to the ship's captain her cargo was to be carried to Iraq by way of Kuwait. The Iranian source added that the Navy had seized the ship some 200 kms from the Hormuz Strait in the Oman Sea as five containers of explosives were observed aboard the liner.

Explosives Unloaded

LD290931 Tehran IRNA in English 0905 GMT 29 Dec 85

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 29, IRNA — Some 60 tons of explosives carried by the seized Danish ship *Hornland*, bound for Iraq, is being unloaded, said an informed source of the Navy here Sunday. The ship was carrying the explosives for Iraq when it was seized by the personnel of the Iranian Navy, in Oman Sea, some 200 kms from the Strait of Hormuz, Saturday. The source added that the explosives were to be used in military fields.

The ship, which had been loaded in various European countries, was inspected by the Iranian Navy personnel who spotted some five containers packed with explosives in ship's cargo. The ship was then led to one of Iran's ports for further investigation.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has repeatedly announced that it would inspect and haul cargo of any ship which would somehow increase Iraq's military power in its fight against Iran.

Navy To Intercept Ships Outside Strait of Hormuz

LD291725 Tehran IRNA in English 1635 GMT 29 Dec 85

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 29, IRNA — Navy Commander Captain Mohammad Hoseyn Malekzadegan said here Sunday that Iran's naval forces were fully prepared to safeguard the Persian Gulf, the Oman Sea and the Strait of Hormuz. Captain Malekzadegan who was speaking to the Persian daily *ETTELA'AT*, added that Iran's naval forces will continue seizing ships which carry military cargo for the Iraqi regime.

Commenting on the recently seized Danish liner *Hornland*, he said that the Iranian Navy on Saturday stopped a 3000-ton Danish liner in the Oman Sea which carried Iraqi-bound explosives. He added that the ship was led to an Iranian port where unloading began for over 60 tons of explosives, Saturday afternoon. He said that all the crew of the ship are Danish, adding that when the unloading is finished the ship will be released to continue its journey.

The Navy commander said that ships carrying suspicious cargo for Iraq have recently begun to take different routes to avoid being intercepted by the Iranian naval forces. Therefore, he added, Iran decided to increase its interception units in the Oman Sea which sometimes covers an area 400 kms off the Strait of Hormuz.

He said that to avoid any encounter with friendly countries of the region, the Iranian Navy has stationed its units outside the Strait of Hormuz so that ships carrying suspicious cargo will be intercepted in international waters before entering the Persian Gulf.

Further Details

LD301320 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1103 GMT 30 Dec 85

[Excerpt] Our first political commentary of the day deals with the seizure of a Danish vessel. Following the seizure of a Danish vessel in the Oman waters, informed sources in the Navy announced that the 60-ton explosive cargo on board the said vessel had been unloaded.

On the morning of last Friday, this Danish vessel was intercepted by the Islamic Republic Navy at a distance of 240 km, deep inside the Oman Sea. Upon an inspection of the ship, it transpired that it was carrying five containers of explosives for the Iraqi regime. As a result, the ship was escorted to southern ports of our country.

Commenting on the incident, the commander of the Navy said: We have noticed recently that the vessels carrying suspicious cargo are choosing some alternative routes, so that, by avoiding Iranian waterways, they can take their goods to Iraq. It was therefore, with this in mind that we decided, by expanding our naval units to deep inside the Oman Sea — an action which at times extends up to 400 km outside the Strait of Hormuz — to increase our security zone. He then added: In order to avoid any clash with the friendly states in the region, the Navy stationed its naval units outside the boundaries of the Strait of Hormuz in order to inspect suspect vessels before entering the Persian Gulf waters, that is in international waters.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani on War, Saddam's Moscow Visit

GF271646 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1448 GMT 27 Dec 85

[Friday Arabic sermon delivered by Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Majlis speaker, and Tehran Friday imam ad interim, at Tehran University on 27 December — recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Praise be to God. Prayers on the prophet, his kin, and the worshipful people of God.

Muslims in the world have received the news of the changes pertaining to the Iraqi war imposed upon Iran, the wickedness of the Iraqi Ba'th, and the extensive moves of the Iranian Muslim volunteers, and also the news of the latest developments in relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and some countries in the southern Persian Gulf. Muslims have also been apprised of the tripartite meeting, between Iran, Syria, and Libya, the communique issued following it, and the progressive Islamic stands adopted by the foreign ministers of these countries during the meeting.

During these circumstances, and following the crimes it has

perpetrated, and its deviation from rightfulness, the Iraqi Ba'th finds its illegitimate structure threatened, and for this reason the head of the regime has gone to Moscow to appease and beg, and on his return, he announced with some ambiguity that the results of his trip were positive and that the fruits of his supplication have been useful in raising the morals of the Ba'thists and his defeated forces. Reactionary news media confirmed — by repeating what he has said — the purpose [of the visit].

Following that, the Ba'th leaders began a media uproar by making allegations concerning new advanced and destructive weapons. They forgot all the false allegations they used to make concerning truce and peace. They resort to threats, intimidation, and crime to refrain from accepting what is right.

Since the beginning of the 'Aflaqi aggression, the Islamic Republic of Iran has announced that it demands putting the aggressor on trial and punishing him, reparations for war losses, and the return of Iraqi fugitives to their homes. It has no ambitions or claims concerning Iraqi territory at all. It has called on Islamic countries and international forums to assist the wronged party in achieving these just and legitimate demands. Regrettably, we have not received a positive response to our call. Rather, the great powers and the reactionaries have supported the Ba'thist aggressors who kindled the war instead of assisting right and the wronged party.

At the present time, it appears that the aggressive party is gradually approaching the end of the road and a predicament from which it cannot possibly extricate itself. The signs of the victory of right already loom on the horizon. For this reason, Iraq is compelled to reveal more than before its evil nature and agentry to foreign powers, since its isolation, despondency, and defeat have become inevitable.

At the same time, everyone, particularly neighboring countries, have come to realize Iran's praiseworthy stands in refraining from expanding the war to preserve the security of the Persian Gulf, and its concern for the rights of neighboring countries.

We hope that the head of the Iraqi regime has returned from Moscow without success, as it appears, and that he will be compelled to accept what is right so that it will be possible to resort to the rules of justice and right, and so that the lives, possessions, and rights of the Muslims will be preserved and honored.

We also hope that the leaders of the USSR will acquire experience and learn a lesson from the past so that they realize that assisting the aggressor will be of no use and will not change the course of the war, but will heighten the determination and steadfastness of those who fight for right until victory is achieved.

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. When comes the help of God, and victory, and thou dost see the people enter God's religion in crowds, celebrate the praises of thy lord, and pray for his forgiveness; for he is oft-returning in grace and mercy. [Koranic verse] Peace and the mercy of God be upon you.

Reportage on Visit of UAE Foreign Minister

Arrives 28 Dec

LD281219 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Dec 85

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report Rashid al-Nu'aymi, UAE minister of state for foreign affairs heading a political delegation, arrived in Tehran today and was welcomed by Velayati, minister of foreign affairs, a group of our country's political officials, and a number of ambassadors and charges d'affaires of Islamic countries to the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI].

Rashid 'Abdallah, in an interview given to our correspondent on his arrival in Tehran, said: I am extremely pleased to have the opportunity to visit the IRI and discuss with my brothers in Iran issues connected with good-neighborliness. I am carrying a message from UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan for Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, president of the IRI. We attach extraordinary importance to this visit and hope for the opportunity to discuss ways to deepen and expand ties and relations between the two countries. During this visit, we will discuss issues connected with the region and problems related to the Islamic nations which are of tremendous importance to us.

Referring to the forthcoming session of the foreign ministers of the Islamic Conference member countries Rashid 'Abdallah then added: There are certain issues in this regard on which views should be exchanged.

Holds Talks With Velayati

LD281842 Tehran IRNA in English 1816 GMT 28 Dec 85

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 28, IRNA — The first round of talks between visiting United Arab Emirates state minister for foreign affairs and Iran's minister of foreign affairs, started here Saturday evening. In this meeting Rashid 'Abdallah al-Nu'aymi and 'Ali Akbar Velayati discussed mutual relations within a friendly atmosphere.

Al-Nu'aymi arrived here earlier in the day, with a message for President 'Ali Khamene'i from his UAE counterpart Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan. He said upon arrival at the airport that his visit aimed at strengthening bilateral relations.

In the meeting with Velayati, the UAE minister stressed that his country shared common stands with the Islamic Republic in various areas. On the expansion of Zionism, Al-Nu'aymi stated that "in our inter-Arab policies, we have always opposed the Camp David accord."

Foreign Minister Velayati also emphasized on Iran's general policy of improving relations with all regional countries, with priority given to some of them. He also said that the Islamic Republic was strongly against the presence of foreign forces in the Persian Gulf and certain regional states. "This is an effective factor in our relations with these countries," he said.

Meets With Musavi

LD291344 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Dec 85

[Text] UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Rashid al-Nu'aymi met with Prime Minister Musavi this morning. Foreign Minister Velayati, the prime minister's political deputy, and the Iranian ambassador to the UAE also attended the meeting. Mentioning his positive talks in Tehran, the UAE minister of state for foreign affairs said: They are indicative of the fact that we wish to present the friendly relations between the two countries as a model for the region in that we are able to settle our problems in the region through our cooperation.

During the meeting, the prime minister, alluding to the fact that friendly relations between the countries of the region can make us all independent of foreigners, said: We have always adhered to the principle of friendship and good-neighborly relations. We have clear-cut policies in the region, having already declared them quite openly. We do not wish to see the superpowers interfering in the region, believing that a rational policy for all Islamic countries is that they settle their problems through cooperation.

In conclusion, the UAE minister of state for foreign affairs expressed the hope for closer cooperation between the two countries at the United Nations, considering that during the coming Christian year the UAE will become a member of the UN Security Council.

Meets With Arab Envoys

LD291349 Tehran IRNA in English 1205 GMT 29 Dec 85

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 29, IRNA — The visiting United Arab Emirates minister of state for foreign affairs, Rashid 'Abdallah al-Nu'aymi, met with the diplomatic corps of the Islamic countries in Tehran, Saturday night. The U.A.E. minister who arrived here Saturday noon, talked about the Iraqi-imposed war and stance of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council members towards it. The Syrian ambassador to Tehran, Ibrahim al-Yunis, speaking as the dean of the diplomatic corps, welcomed the U.A.E. official.

In a meeting with the Iranian foreign affairs minister, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, here Saturday night the U.A.E. minister discussed bilateral and regional issues. Meanwhile the U.A.E. minister visited palaces of the toppled shah, here Sunday morning.

Confers With Majlis Speaker

LD291810 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Dec 85

[Text] The UAE minister of state for foreign affairs and his entourage met and conferred with Hashemi-Rafsanjani this afternoon. During the meeting, while expressing his pleasure at the meeting between officials of the two countries, UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Rashid 'Abdallah called his trip to the Islamic Republic successful. He said: We in the UAE attach much importance to these talks. We hope to be able to expand them. Today we Muslims have common problems, which we should try to solve with each other's cooperation. Despite the present conditions, owing to our firm stance, we advocate the establishment of good-neighborly relations. With more contact with our Iranian brothers, we are trying to lay suitable bases for friendship between the two countries. We said this in the Musqat statement. Now, we thank the Islamic Republic officials for their interpretation of that statement. We hope that you will not let this opportunity slip by, and that the past will not cause you to ignore it. We are all Muslims. But at present we are encumbered with countries that are not uniform in their adherence to Islam. So we are obliged to call the nations toward Islam and try to guide them toward it.

In conclusion Rashid 'Abdallah expressed the hope that, following the verbal message from Shaykh Zayyid inviting Hashemi-Rafsanjani to visit the UAE, he may one day act as host to the Majlis speaker.

Expressing his joy at meeting with our country's Muslim guests, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: With the victory of the Islamic Revolution we expected to start a new stage of cooperation with our Muslim brothers and to serve Islam and the Muslims. Before being politicians and statesmen we are clergymen and missionaries of Islam. But, unfortunately, our enemies have succeeded in involving us in issues against our wishes. A great proportion of our energy and time has been wasted during the last 5-6 years. This was all perpetrated by a person who was in an Islamic region and was an Arab, as it were, and also our neighbor, while they could utilize the Islamic revolution to their advantage. [sentence as heard] Although we wanted to have more cooperation with the southern Persian Gulf countries, one way or another they became involved in the matter. Now that it seems that some of those countries are willing to have more cooperation with us, it is best to think more about the future.

Of course, among our neighboring countries the UAE and Shaykh Zayid have expressed more favorable views about Iran than others have. We shall not forget this. In any case, we set no conditions for cooperating with you. We can act in the interests of both sides. You can tell this to your colleagues at the GCC.

The Majlis speaker said: Iraq's Ba'th Party is inherently incompatible with Islam. As you know, they do not have an Islamic ideology and are opposed to Islam. There are anti-Islamic countries elsewhere. But the presence of an anti-Islamic country in an Islamic region is not right. Nevertheless, if they had left others alone, we would not have interfered in their affairs. But they were mischievous and fanned the fire of the war. In the first place we expected the Muslims in the region to be on Islam's side, not that of the fire when trying to solve the problem. Today, you believe in Islam and know that Islam does not equate race with religion and faith. We do not oppose anyone just because they are Arabs. If secular issues prevent you from cooperating with us, your neutrality will be acceptable to us. We expect no more from you. Of course, I mean all Persian Gulf countries. For you observed neutrality to an extent from the start. You are aware that without the least expectation, Iran has abundant facilities, which it can offer by way of cooperating with you and other southern neighbors. All Muslims can benefit greatly through our cooperation. If we had seriously cooperated, the price of oil would not

have fallen by about $10.

Talks Continue

LD291828 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Dec 85

[Text] The second round of talks between the UAE minister of state for foreign affairs and Mr Velayati, our country's foreign minister, on important world and regional issues was held this afternoon. In the talks Mr Rashid 'Abdallah stated: Our assessment of the Palestine issue is that that important matter has today developed into a painful development requiring constant efforts to restore it to its original position. He added: The Palestine aspiration, both from its Islamic and Arab aspects, is a fundamental issue and great efforts should be devoted to that matter.

During the meeting Mr Velayati said: The Palestine problem for us is a strategic issue, something about which our people had a slogan before the victory of the revolution and something which his eminence the imam raised from the outset of the Islamic movement. In this connection we have so far had very good cooperation with the friendly and fraternal states of Syria and Libya. We plan to continue this cooperation.

During the meeting other important issues of the Islamic world and the ways that Islamic countries can cooperate in resolving them were also discussed.

Tehran Reports Kurdish Attack on Iraqi Forces

GF281948 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 28 Dec 85

[Text] Kurdish Peshmarga in Iraq attacked an Iraqi forces' battalion headquarters north of Diyala Governorate late last week, killing more than 15 Iraqi troops in the operation. Reports from Irbil Governorate in northern Iraq say that during the attack all the vehicles and the main part of the battalion headquarters belonging to the Ba'thist government forces were destroyed.

Reportage on Combat Activities in War With Iraq

Communique No 2,332

LD271701 Tehran IRNA in English 1649 GMT 27 Dec 85

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 27, IRNA — A military communique published here Friday enumerated Iraqi losses throughout the war fronts on Thursday as follows:

Northwestern fronts: enemy's heavy weapons fire silenced, a number of enemy bunkers destroyed, and some casualties and losses inflicted.

Western fronts: fire exchange continued, six enemy bunkers and lookout posts destroyed, ten Iraqis killed or wounded. Enemy mine planting checked in Helaleh region, and their engineering operation disturbed in Kani-Sheykh.

Southern fronts: enemy positions barraged and their artillery fire silenced. Some casualties and losses inflicted. An enemy patrol group trying to infiltrate Iranian positions in Jofeyr, was forced to flee. Gendarmerie combatants inflicted some losses on enemy forces on the other side of the Arvand River.

Communique Number 2332 of the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces also said that a number of civilians were wounded and several houses were damaged in Abadan as a result of Iraqi long range shelling of the city, on Thursday.

Communique No 2,333

LD281805 Tehran IRNA in English 1745 GMT 28 Dec 85

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 28, IRNA — Iran's Navy seized a commercial ship suspected of carrying goods for Iraq in the Strait of Hormuz at 00.15 hours local time Saturday (8.45 hours GMT Friday), and led it to an Iranian port for a thorough inspection, according to a military communique published by the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces here Saturday.

In its communique number 2333, the command says that at least 30 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and 15 enemy artillery emplacements destroyed in Bakhtaran and Ilam border fronts Friday as Iraqi positions were shelled by Iran's Muslim forces.

Exchange of fire between Iranian Muslim combatants and Iraqi forces continued throughout the fronts Friday, raging somewhat more heavily in Majnun, Kushk and Talayeh, reports the communique.

The communique further says that Iranian surface-to-air fire repelled Iraqi warplanes from the airspace of Piranshahr in West Azarbayjan Province, and Iraqi reconnaissance helicopters in Talayeh and the Arvand River Friday.

Iran's Muslim combatants set fire to an Iraqi base in the northwestern fronts Friday, inflicting heavy casualities and losses on the base and destroying several Iraqi artillery emplacements with their crew, according to the communique.

In the southern fronts, the Joint Staff says, most Iraqi command outposts and their supply routes were shelled by the heavy artillery fire of Iranian Muslim forces Friday as a result of which the Iraqi forces sustained substantial casualties and losses.

Iranian gunners shot dead three Iraqi soldiers in Yabis Friday, says the communique, adding that Iran's Gendarmerie forces pounded Iraqi positions across the Arvand River Saturday, killing a number of Iraqi soldiers and demolishing parts of their positions. Meanwhile, Iraqi forces continued shelling the city of Abadan in Khuzestan Province Friday.

Communique No 2,334

LD291656 Tehran IRNA in English 1648 GMT 29 Dec 85

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 29, IRNA — Iranian artillery fire on Iraqi positions in the western fronts on Saturday, killed or wounded at

least 20 Iraqi soldiers and demolished four bunkers and observation posts and one vehicle of Iraqi forces, according to a military communique released by the Joint Staff Command of the armed forces here Sunday.

In its Communique Number 2334, the command says that Iran's Muslim combatants shelled Iraqi positions in the northwestern fronts Saturday, killing or wounding a number of Iraqi soldiers and destroying several of their bunkers and a command outpost.

Iranian Muslim combatants responded to Iraqi artillery fire in Kani-Sheykh and Sumar regions Saturday, silencing the fire of Iraqi tanks, according to the communique.

Elsewhere the communique says that Iranian Muslim forces opened fire on Iraqi positions, their supply routes and command outposts Saturday inflicting substantial casualties on them.

Reconnaissance flights of Iraqi helicopters in Jofeyr on Saturday were all checked by Iranian fire, reports the Joint Staff, adding that Iranian artillery fire forced 15 Iraqi patrols to flee as they were trying to infiltrate their positions near Nahr-Anbar.

Exchange of fire between Iran's Gendarmerie forces and Iraqi troops continued in Abadan Saturday as a result of which a number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and several bunkers of the enemy were destroyed, says the communique. Meanwhile, Iraqi forces shelled the city of Abadan Saturday causing damage to some houses.

Air Force Hits Sulaymaniyah Area

LD301049 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Dec 85

[Text] According to the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces, at 1200 hours today [0830 GMT] the Iranian Air Force pilots with several jet aircraft bombed enemy concentration areas north of Sulaymaniyah -- coordinates 35 45 north and 45 33 east -- causing considerable losses and casualties. All the jets safely returned to their bases.

Further Details

LD301716 Tehran IRNA in English 1639 GMT 30 Dec 85

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 30, IRNA — Iranian jet fighters bombed concentration centers of Iraqi troops (at 35.47 north and 45.33 east coordinates) north of the Iraqi city of Sulaymaniyah and (at 31.37 north and 47.11 east coordinates) south of Al-'Amarah at 12.00 and 12.05 hours (8:30 and 8:35 hours GMT) Monday, according to a military communique released by the Joint Staff command of the Armed Forces here Monday.

In its communique number 2335, the command says that Iraqi troops incurred substantial casualties and losses in the aerial attacks. All Iranian jet fighters returned to safely their base.

The joint staff further says that Iran's Muslim combatants responded to artillery fire of Iraqi forces in the western fronts Sunday, killing at least 20 Iraqi soldiers and demolishing 12 artillery emplacements and five observation posts of theirs.

In the southern fronts, the communique says, Iranian Muslim forces repelled Iraqi fighters from the area especially in Chazzabeh and Kushk and also inflicted heavy damage on Iraqi positions and their supply routes and other installations in these fronts Sunday.

Iranian Muslim troops set fire to several Iraqi emplacments and destroyed one Iraqi base in the northwestern fronts on Saturday, killing a number of enemy soldiers, according to the communique.

[Words indistinct] motorized column in Nafsha nd Iraqi reconnaissance helicopters were forced to flee from Helaleh and Kani-Sheykh Saturday, reported joint staff, adding that Iran's Gendarmerie forces foiled engineering operations of Iraqi forces in Dehloran and the Arvand River on the said day. Meanwhile Iraqi forces continued shelling the city of Abadan in Khuzestan Province Saturday damaging some locations there.